

NERO **bridge** ACES

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CHECK OUT THE NEW NERO ACES WEBSITE
WWW.NEREDUCATION.ARMY.MIL

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View from the Chief's Desk

If you have visited your education center recently, you should have noticed that there are major changes to the way we do business. There is no doubt that our education centers have moved into the era of technology.

Army education has experienced a huge transformation in the month of April as we transitioned from a counselor-issued Tuition Assistance (TA) process to a self-service Internet-based TA system, the Centralized Tuition Assistance Management (CTAM), accessible through the GoArmyEd portal at

www.GoArmyEd.com. Soldiers and education center staff have been working very hard to become accustomed to the new system, and of course there has been a little confusion along the way; however, with each problem along the way, action has been taken immediately to find solutions and make corrections.

As glitches are worked out of the system and Soldiers become more familiar with the operation of CTAM, the many advantages of automated tuition assistance will become more apparent. Soldiers now have the ability to manage their own education from the convenience of their homes, offices, and/or even while deployed— as long as they have access to a computer with Internet connectivity.

Eligible soldiers will no longer be pulled away from work to request Tuition Assistance in person. In fact, Tuition Assistance can be requested online any time— day or night!

Technology has increased Soldier accessibility to education around the world. There are now a multitude of degree choices from colleges all over the country, with varied course delivery options from traditional classroom courses, to eArmyU, to various methods of distance learning. There are so many choices available, you

might find it difficult to find the right degree plan and to decide on your preferred course delivery option. The good news is that you may still seek assistance from an Army education counselor by visiting your local Army Education Center in person, by phone, or by email through our Northeast Region ACES website at www.NEReducation.army.mil. Similarly, if your time is limited and you would like to make an appointment to see an Army counselor, you may schedule your appointment through the NERO ACES website.

Online services through the Northeast Region ACES website also include test scheduling for DANTES, college and Army Personnel Testing, and enrollment

in the Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP). BSEP is a program designed to improve reading and math skills for enlisted Soldiers who want to brush up on their basic academic skills and/or raise their General Technical (GT) score on the Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT). For those who prefer classroom learning, traditional BSEP classes are available through many of our local education centers. Soldiers may enroll by downloading the enrollment form from the website, attaining the appropriate signatures, and faxing, digitally sending, or returning the form in person. For those who prefer self-study, an automated option, the Lifetime Library computer program, is also available to Soldiers through the Multi-use Learning Facility (MLF) at most education centers.

If you have delayed working on your education because it interferes with your work schedule, or you don't have time to wait to see a counselor, I challenge you to try out the NERO ACES website: www.nereducation.army.mil. You may find that education today is much more convenient than you ever anticipated!



Carla Ortiz
 NERO ACES Team Chief



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Basic Skills Overview

By: Ingrid Lindberg

Whatever you call it— GT Prep, FAST, Functional Skills, Basic Skills, BSEP, or something else— there are classroom courses to on-line self-study programs intended to help you learn how to do basic math such as addition and subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals as well as percents, area and volume, and ratio and proportions. There are similar courses to help you learn English grammar, word usage, writing, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. While some Soldiers may want to sit in a classroom with a teacher, others may prefer a self-paced computer program or on-line courses. All options are available, and you are not limited to just one choice. All U.S. Army BSEP programs are provided at no cost to Soldiers.

Lifetime Library is a commercial computer program funded by the Army that can be accessed at most Army Education Centers. The Army Correspondence Course Program also offers on-line math sub-courses that provide well-written information and promotion points for those who complete the courses. A third free source is the "Army e-Learning" portal provided by SkillPort. It has multiple courses to help you with English, math, and reading. These instructional materials are accessed via "My Education" and "Army e-Learning" from the AKO home page. New users can register for access by logging on to AKO at www.us.army.mil >My Education>Army e-Learning Portal Page>New User Link. You also earn promotions points for successfully completing these courses.

If instructor-led BSEP courses are not available at your local Army Education Center but you want a traditional classroom situation with a teacher, a really good choice would be a basic math, reading, and/or English course from a college providing courses on or near your installation. You can probably use Army tuition assistance to pay the cost of the course, but you may need to buy your books.

All of the above mentioned programs can help you improve your basic skills in math, English, and/or reading and can benefit you in numerous ways for the rest of your life. As Henry Ford once said, "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right."

Procedures for Enrolling in an Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP) Math Sub-courses

1. Go to website <http://www.atsc.army.mil/accp/aipdnew.asp>
2. In the middle of the page, you will see the following words: "You, as a registered AIPD student can..." Select 1. Log-In. If you are a registered student, type in your log-on and password and click SIGN IN. If you are not a registered student, click on REGISTER
3. Follow instructions and prompts
4. After logging onto the ACCP website, select ENROLL > SUBCOURSE LISTING > "List for school" and choose 101 - US Army Quartermaster School in the drop-down box.
4. Then select "Sort by title" on the left of the screen and arrow down through the alphabetical list for Basic Mathematics (QM0113 - Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division), Basic Mathematics II (QM0114 - Decimals & Fractions), Basic Mathematics III (QM0115 - Area and Volume), and Basic Mathematics IV (QM0116 - Ration and Proportion)

Lifetime Learning Library

The Lifetime Learning Library teaches the basic skills that have always been necessary for success in life – basic math, reading, and writing. But now students can work independently and at their own pace using a multimedia, learning environment.

The Lifetime Learning Library includes 111 lessons grouped into nine series of instruction. Each series is a complete unit of learning, and many teachers prescribe lessons in the Lifetime Library for students who need particular help on a certain subject. The program addresses the full range of academic skills— basic math, algebra, reading and writing. Interactive, multimedia graphics walk you through each lesson and make learning interesting and fun.

Learning Library demonstrates the the success of multimedia instruction. It successfully utilizes the power of video, graphics, text, narration, and simulation. Lifetime Library even has components that address attention, motivation, and how to best assess your progress.

Each section adds a critical dimension that supports both academic and professional growth. Various features of the program enhance and enrich the learning experience for students. You can work through Lifetime Library independently, or find out if your local Army Education Center offers instructor-led and/or tutor-supported sessions. Either way, go to your local Multi-use Learning Facility at the Army Education Center, and check it out today!

In many states,
workforce
development
(including basic
skills training) at
two-year
colleges is the
fastest growing
area of
College
services



Mr. Charles Walker, Education Services Officer of the Herb Bateman Army Education Center at Fort Eustis recently received a Commander's Award for his previous tour in Europe. The award was presented by Mr. John Bavis, Director of DPTMS. Mr. Walker was Chief of Deployment operations for the Education Division in Europe; he was instrumental in providing education services for our deployed troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Kuwait in addition to other areas located downrange, including Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia.



Ask Nero

Question: I know that I am supposed to use the GoArmyEd website to request tuition assistance, but once I get to the website, how does that work?

Answer: First sign on to the www.GoArmyEd.com Portal. Click on "New Users" tab in the top right corner of the screen. Fill in information prompted on the screen. Complete all information including review of the eight slides. Click "Submit." You will receive your username and password at the end.

Next, click "Back" and this time type in username and password on the right side of the screen. Complete the Prospective User Checklist displayed on your Prospective Student View (This will take a while to go through everything you need to do.) Review your college and degree options; select and print out your choice. Review the integrated

schedule, and then print out the Statement of Understanding.

Complete the Common Application form and submit. You will find this under the "Before you Enroll in a Course" heading on your home screen. Please NOTE: You will need to wait 24-48 hours after completing the Common application before enrolling in your class(es). Have your Commander sign your Statement of Understanding, and make an appointment with an Army Education Counselor to talk over any questions you have. He or she will input your signed SOU into the portal, and approve your degree plan. Follow through on the college admissions requirements (high school/GED transcripts, AARTS transcript, prior college transcripts, placement testing for math and English, etc.)

Most of the above you will only have to do the first time you use GoArmyEd. From then on, your user information, SOU, and degree plan will remain on file. Register for the course through the GoArmyEd Portal by reviewing the Integrated Course Schedule found under the "Earn a Degree or Credential" for the class first. After you click on "Class Detail" and know it is the right class for your degree plan, write down the class number. Then go back to your Home page and click on the Enroll or Drop/Withdraw from a Course." Select "add a course" and type in the class number. Follow the few remaining instructions and your registered class will come up on the screen.

That's it! Your college will be electronically sent your TA form.

Question: I heard that I might qualify for a scholarship through the Army Emergency Relief Program. Is this true?

Answer: Army Emergency Relief (AER) is expanding their Spouse Education Assistance Program (SEAP) to the United States. The Stateside SEAP is a need-based education assistance program designed to provide spouses of active duty Army Soldiers and widow(ers) of Army Soldiers who died while on active duty with financial assistance in pursuing their educational goals. The purpose of the program is to assist spouses and widows in furthering their education to afford them increased occupational opportunities.



Financial assistance is provided as a GRANT and is awarded based on financial need as evidenced by income, assets, family size, special financial obligations and circumstances, with the maximum amount of \$2,500 for academic the year 2006/2007.

The scholarships are awarded annually for up to four academic years to attend post-secondary school full-time as an undergraduate level student. Second undergraduate or graduate-level courses are not included. The scholarship money can be used for tuition, books, supplies and fees and will be paid by AER directly to the school.

Applications will be available for downloading on AER's Web Site, www.aerhq.org; at AER Sections. The deadline for receipt of complete applications for the upcoming Academic Year (AY) 2006-2007 is May 22, 2006. Mailed applications and supporting documents must be received or postmarked by May 22, 2006 or earlier to be considered on time. Additional information on this new program may be found on AER's Web Site, www.aerhq.org, within the Army Emergency Relief Officer's Reference Manual (Education); at AER Sections; or by contacting HQ, AER, Mrs. Diann Evans at diann@erhq.org. (cont. on pg. 6)



Ask Nero (continued from page 5)

Question: On the TABE, I scored really well in Math, but my Reading and Language scores are low because English is a second language for me. I think this pulls down my GT score also. What can I do?

Answer: Many BSEP students do have English as a second language. Basic skills courses are typically divided by topic, so that you may enroll in either math, language/reading, or both. In your case, you might want to sign up for a local Language BSEP course. Another option might be for you to enroll in the Learning Library, which allows you to work on only the areas you need. There are also some online resources that you might find helpful, such as: <http://www.englishclub.com/>, <http://a4esl.org/>, http://www.cln.org/subjects/esl_cur.html, http://esl.about.com/bl_englishbaby.htm, or <http://esl.about.com/library/quiz/blphrasaltun.htm>.

Test Your Math Skills - Fill The Buckets

MATH TEASER:

Gino's mom has told him he needs to take a bucket of water over to their neighbor since she is experiencing problems with her water supply. He doesn't want to waste much time since he has a soccer game to play in later in the afternoon. From past experience he knows if he uses the small hose it takes 45 minutes to fill the bucket with water. He also knows that the larger hose can do the same in 30 minutes. If he uses both hoses, how long will it take him to fill the bucket?



[Find the answer on the bottom of page 8](#)

Welcome to the Monthly Brain Teaser



In a kingdom a long time ago there was a king and his beautiful daughter who fell in love with a poor farmer boy. The king, not wanting to consent to the marriage, decided to let the decision be left up to chance. The king, his daughter, and the boy went outside the castle where there were countless pebbles, roughly half of them black, and roughly half of them white. The king claimed to put one of each color into his hat, and for the boy to draw one. If he drew a white pebble, he could marry the daughter. A black pebble meant he could never see her again. However, the boy saw that by sleight of hand, the king put two black pebbles in the hat. What could the boy do to ensure that he could marry the daughter without calling the king a cheat?

[Click here to find the answer](#)

Online Resources for Academic Review

Subject	Website
Grammar	www.englishchick.com/gttrm.htm#parts
Grammar	www.smic.be/smic5022/exercisesgrammar.htm
Grammar Games	www.funbrain.com/words.html
Math	home.earthlink.net/~djbach/lessons.html
Math	www.mathpower.com/linkstu.htm
Math	tutorial.math.lamar.edu/
Math Games	www.funbrain.com/numbers.html
Multiple Subjects	www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluwebn/
Multiple Subjects	www.wannalearn.com/
Reading Comprehension	www.smic.be/smic5022/exercisesreadingcomp.htm
Vocabulary	www.freevocabulary.com/vocabulary.pdf
Vocabulary	www.phio.edu/esl/english/vocabu:ary.htm#intermediate
Vocabulary	www.smic.be/smic5022/exercisesvocabulary.htm



MARCH 2 SUCCESS

By: Annette Whitaker



If you hope to improve your basic skills and/or to raise your GT score, there are many options available to you. Army Education Centers across the region provide basic skills courses, both in person and through the automated Lifetime Library program. There are countless resources available online as well. March 2 Success is one such resource---an online test preparation self-paced course that is used to improve performance in the areas of Math, Science, and English.

March 2 Success was developed by Kaplan Inc and Educational Options, Inc. Kaplan is nationally known for its standardized test preparation for SAT and other assessment tests. Educational Options, Inc. provides state-of-the-art-test assessments and remedial courses.

You may select part or all of the courses offered. The sections include Comprehensive English, Integrated Math, Integrated Science, Skills and Strategies (test taking skills), SAT program, and ACT program. You can pick up where you left off or repeat lessons as you choose.

March 2 Success is free and incurs no obligations. The program is available 24/7, so students can log on at times that are convenient for them. You may enroll at www.march2success.com.

BASIC SKILLS TRAINING MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Military-sponsored adult basic education courses have existed in one form or another since 1778, but it was not until the late 1970s that the United States Department of Defense and Army Continuing Education System (ACES) created a concrete and comprehensive program that specifically targeted basic skills training. Around the same time, researchers discovered that Soldiers who received basic skills training performed better in their jobs and were more likely to reenlist and/or be promoted.

Adult and continuing education is considered by those in the federal government to be a worthwhile investment that ultimately returns much more than is invested; the 'returns' are in the form of increased future incomes, productivity, national standard of living, and general upward mobility. The U.S. Army provides the Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) to enhance job performance, increase retention, and better prepare Soldiers for the multi-faceted demands of the modern military.

Many Soldiers who enroll in BSEP just need to “brush up” on some basic math and reading skills that they have forgotten along the way, especially if it has been a while since they were in high school. After taking the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) at your local testing center, you and your education counselor will determine if you qualify to take a BSEP course. You also may request a BSEP enrollment by going to the NERO ACES website (www.nereducation.army.mil) and clicking on the appropriate ACES Service Center. Then simply choose “Basic Skills” along the top menu.

While the superficial objective of BSEP often is to raise GT scores or to otherwise reach a specific measured goal as required by a certain career field, there is more to the experience of participating in ABE courses than these goals alone would imply. Soldiers who have participated in BSEP say that they completed the program feeling newly motivated to accomplish their education and career goals, and they felt more capable of doing so. One Sergeant stated, “I feel like I do better in my job now. You know, if I have to write something up for my boss, I know I can do it well now.” Another Soldier who is now a Lieutenant remarked, “BSEP changed my life. Because of my past experiences in high school and in general, I never knew how capable I was. Once I took the basic skills course, I realized I can do anything I set my mind to. I might have gotten out of the Army and just worked some factory job, because I never would have known my own potential. Now I have a degree, and I’ve advanced in my career. I’m so glad I had the chance to attend BSEP!”

Fill The Buckets The Answer! - from page 6

The small hose can fill $\frac{1}{45}$ of the bucket every minute. The larger hose can fill $\frac{1}{30}$ of the bucket every minute. To add the two speeds, we need to first find a common denominator.

$$\frac{1}{45} = \frac{2}{90} \text{ and } \frac{1}{30} = \frac{3}{90}$$

Adding the two speeds:

$$\frac{2}{90} + \frac{3}{90} = \frac{5}{90} = \frac{1}{18}$$

Since both hoses together can fill $\frac{1}{18}$ of the bucket every minute, it will take 18 minutes. By doing this Gino will save at a minimum 12 minutes. This will get him to his soccer game just in time.

Brainteaser Answer! - from page 6

Not so fast!! You'll have to read next quarter's NERO ACES Bridge newsletter to get the answer.